

March 22, 1976

SENATOR ANDERSON: Okay, in urging the adoption of the amendment, I would like to emphasize a couple of things. First, in terms of the procedural matters that are there for setting up treatment programs, the court involvement, and this kind of thing, what Senator Barnett is talking about is the adoption of essentially the same bill as this body passed last year and was vetoed for no opportunity for the override. The parts that the Governor has objected to have essentially been taken out. In regard to the tax, I would like to respond to the comment that 55% of the cost of an alcoholic beverage or hard liquor is tax. Actually, almost all of that is federal tax. We are talking about on a fifth gallon of bourbon, only about 40¢ is state tax which is, I am sure, a whole lot less than 50 of 55 percent. We are talking about increasing the tax on a gallon of hard liquor from \$2.00 to \$2.25 and this is what would be used to fund the program. I think that the program as it is written in the amendments, and I invite your attention to sections 79, sections 81, does provide for the same kind of accountability that the Budget Committee was trying to develop in the mental health budgets. I think that these things are well nailed down. We do provide for funding of the program. We do address ourselves to, what I think is one of the most serious human problems in the State of Nebraska and this is the problem of alcoholism, and I think this is where our primary responsibility should lie, to get something done here. So I urge the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: The question is the adoption of Senator Anderson's amendment. Record your vote. Have you all voted? Please vote. Record. Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: I am going to ask for a Call of the House and when they get here we will have a roll call.

PRESIDENT: All right. The question is, shall the House go under Call? Record your vote. Have you voted on going under Call? Record.

CLERK: 15 ayes, 12 nays.

PRESIDENT: The House is under Call. Please return to your desks and record your presence. All Senators are required to be at your desks. Record your presence, please. Senator Kime, Senator Kelly, Senator Marsh. Senator Clark, will you press your button. We need Senator Koch and Senator Stoney, Senator DeCamp. Senator Johnson, would you record. Senator Anderson, there are some neighbors of yours, Senator Koch and Senator Stoney. Would the Sergeant at Arms please try to find those two Senators, and Senator DeCamp. We still need Senators Dickinson, Stoney and Koch. Could the Sergeant at Arms enter a report on the missing Senators.

SENATOR BARNETT: Where is Wiltse?

PRESIDENT: I beg your pardon?